



#GoldenBridges

October 8-9
Seaport Hotel Boston



Seventh annual

Boston-Northwest Ireland GOLDEN BRIDGES

NEW ALLIANCES IN A NEW ERA

2014

AI SLING
EVENTS

IrishEcho

SQUIRE
PATTON BOGGS

NI Bureau
North America

Invest
Northern
Ireland

Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

lyit
Liaison
Irish
Technology

Irish Network
BOSTON

Liberty
Mutual
INSURANCE

Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

Derry City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Droichead
Derry City Council

DALRADIAN
RESOURCES

northern
irish
connections
A GLOBAL DIASPORA INITIATIVE



Tourism Ireland
Marketing the island of Ireland

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND | Boston

Wednesday 8 October

THE FLAGSHIP ROOM, SEAPORT HOTEL

sponsored by



5:30pm Opening Reception

Welcome by Sean Moynihan, President IN Boston and Principal of The Moynihan Group LLC
Response: Andrew Cowan, CEO Northern Irish Connections
(Introduced by Victoria Denoon, Co-Director Center for Irish Partnerships, University of Massachusetts Lowell)

6:10pm Boston Bard Three Poems by Fred Marchant

Night Heron Maybe, Note Held, St John's Point. Fred Marchant's most recent book of poetry, *The Looking House* (Graywolf Press, 2009) was named by Barnes & Noble Review as one of the five best books of poetry in 2009. Professor of English and the Director of the Creative Writing Program, and The Poetry Center at Suffolk University in Boston, Marchant is a longtime teaching affiliate of The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, and was himself a conscientious objector within the military during the Viet Nam War.

6:20pm A Region on the Rise

Following the success of the Derry-Londonderry City of Culture extravaganza and building on the bedrock of music and song in Donegal, the USP of NorthWest Ireland is increasingly focused on history, heritage, arts and culture. But what are the next steps needed to make this area a must-see for the eight million tourists who come to Ireland each year? (This session will be prefaced by a short video showcasing The Wild Atlantic Way.)

Chair: Sara Stanton, CEO Cara Group Travel, Boston | Alison Metcalfe, Head of North America, Tourism Ireland | Liam Ó Guinneagáin, Founder Oideas Gael, Co Dhún na nGall | Eddie Friel, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Ulster | Michael Fitzsimons, Client Services Officer, Fáilte Ireland

6:55pm Jewels in the Crown

Where are the true treasures of our regions and how can we share them with our cousins across the Atlantic? We bring together a panel of authoritative and experienced cultural and civic champions who lead unsurpassed but often unheralded projects and programs. (This session will be prefaced by a short video showcasing The City of Culture.)

Chair: Mike Quinlin, Founder Boston Irish Tourism Association, Boston | Kevin O'Connor, Economic Development Manager, Derry City Council | Norman Houston, Director NI Bureau, Washington DC | John Foley, Board Member Irish Cultural Centre of New England, Canton, MA | Tim Cooke, Director and CEO National Museums of Northern Ireland

**7:30pm
Boardroom Dialogue Sessions**

A Partnership For Progress
Seaport Ballroom A. Seaport Hotel

What are the key steps we must take to strengthen the Irish American networks and partner them with Irish institutions and organisations?

Chair: Harry Connolly, Director Fáilte Feirste Thiar, Belfast | Sean Gaffey, Irish International Business Network-NY | Ryan McDermott, Boston Irish Business Association | Frank Powell, Sport Changes Life | Sean Moynihan, Irish Network Boston | Andrew Cowan, CEO NI Connections | Paul McErlan MCE/Chair of the Cathedral Qtr

Joined at the Hip?
Seaport Ballroom B. Seaport Hotel

Donegal, Derry, Belfast form an arc of progress and potential but how best do we nurture sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships between educational, community and cultural groups in this region and their counterparts in Boston and Massachusetts.

Chair: Michael Patrick MacDonald, Author | Kevin Gamble, CEO West Belfast Féile | Prof Frank Talty, Center for Irish Partnerships | UMass Lowell, Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, Director of Development, Donegal County Council | Bob Mauro, Boston College | Joyce Linehan, Chief of Policy, Office of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh

A Nation of Storytellers
Seaport Ballroom C. Seaport Hotel

A Nation of Storytellers Ireland and Irish America have produced an abundance of talented authors and poets but only a few artists cross over from one Continent to the other. We ask a panel of scribes, poets, playwrights and songwriters how best to write a new chapter in Irish literary outreach.

Chair: Kevin Cullen, Columnist Boston Globe | Kevin McCann, Film Producer 1916: The Rising | Bill Forry, Editor Boston Irish Reporter | Meg Tyler, Associate Professor of Humanities, Boston University

**8:05pm
The Million Dollar Challenge**

Robert Ballagh, artist.

Robert Ballagh, artist. The foremost Irish artist of our era, Dublin-based Robert Ballagh is best known for designing the set for Riverdance and creating the iconic Irish punt designs. He has also drawn the portraits of several generations of Irish leaders and artists. One of his most recent commissions was for Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in Quinnipiac University, Connecticut.

Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhíne, Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge.
Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge is a strategic investment board for newbuild Irish language projects which has launched a \$1m fundraising appeal in the US

**8:20pm
Heart of Irish America Award**

Joseph Finn, Commissioner, The Boston Fire Department.
Presented by Senator Linda Dorcea Fory



Conference Club

Mr Dooley's, 77 Broad St, Boston

Thursday 9 October THE HARBOUR VIEW BALLROOM 1. WORLD TRADE CENTER

**7:45am
Registration and Breakfast**

**8am
Breakfast Sessions**

Moderator: Paul McErlan, Belfast

Partnering with Boston, Massachusetts, The University, Life Sciences and Healthcare Capital of America

Boston is a hotbed of enterprise and endeavour, presenting many opportunities to entrepreneurs, start-ups and business leaders across northwest Ireland. But how best to 'crack' Boston is a question many struggle to answer. Our line-up of business and science authorities from both sides of the Atlantic have vast experience of transforming connections into business alliances. We trust they have at least some of the answers about how best to form 'new alliances in a new era'.

Chair: Maureen Bennett, Partner Squire Patton Boggs, Boston | Kathleen Hagan, Hagan & Company, Boston | Barry Henderson, Life Sciences USA Representative for Invest NI | Norman Apsley, CEO Northern Ireland Science Park, Belfast and Northwest Science Park, Derry and Letterkenny | Susan Whoriskey, bio-technology entrepreneur, Boston | Robert J. McCarron, VP for Government Relations/General Counsel, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts

8:30am Economic Growth Areas 2014-2020

Where should the economic focus be in the run-in to 2020 and how best can regions combine across the Atlantic to compete in a global economy.

Chair: Nuala Friel Wright, Donegal Community Boston | Paul Hannigan, President Letterkenny Institute of Technology | Tim Murray President and CEO Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce | Andrew O'Brien, Special Representative for Global Partnerships at US Dept of State

9am A TRIPLE Welcome

Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh | Mayor of Derry Cllr Brenda Stevenson | Mayor of Donegal Cllr John Campbell

9:20am Driving the NEW Economy

As old certainties crumble, the race is on to identify the new areas of economic activity which can create jobs, boost wealth and provide prosperity. In this new economic era, are there under-appreciated assets of talent or resources which can be utilised to build our communities and economies on both sides of the Atlantic?

Chair: Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Donegal County Council | Prof Steve McCarthy, Director Medical Devices Development Centre, UMass Lowell & Founder M2D2 Northwest, Letterkenny, Co Donegal | Paul Williamson, Maine Wind Industry Initiative | Colm McColgan, ERNACT

9:55am Creative Industries, Creative Futures & The Arts

Introduced by State Senate President Therese Murray

Can media, design, animation, TV and film production create a vibrant corridor of collaboration across the Atlantic?

Chair: Anne Burke, Vice President Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts | John Andy Bonar, Head of Development, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Co Donegal | Timothy Egan, CMO & Executive Producer, MoodyStreet TV, Boston | Larry Mac Corraigh, Director Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Derry | Kevin Gamble, CEO West Belfast Féile

10:30am Transatlantic Trailblazers

Been there, done that, got the tee-shirt! The companies running successful operations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Chair: John Reilly, Squire Patton Boggs | Ammar Afif, CFO, Merchant Warehouse, Boston
James McGlennon, EVP & CIO Liberty Mutual Insurance, Boston | Patrick Anderson, Dalradian Resources, Toronto | Gary Hanley, Senior VP Americas, Invest Northern Ireland

Video close by Gary Hanley
'The Fastest-Growing Knowledge Economy in Europe.'

11:10am The Issue of Our Era: Immigration Reform

Fr. John McCarthy

Fr. John McCarthy is a veteran Boston campaigner and chaplain for the undocumented. Based at the Irish Pastoral Centre and chaplain to the Irish community of New England, his outreach extends to the many thousands of undocumented Irish in the greater Boston area.

11:15am Sporting Bridges Spanning The Atlantic

As efforts are stepped up to bring a 'Belpot', featuring Massachusetts Colleges, to Belfast, we ask what are the real benefits to be reaped from a new era of transatlantic sporting alliances.

Chair: Cathal Conlon, Director of Marketing New England Revolution | Robert Fitzpatrick, CEO Odyssey Arena | Steve Thornton, Coach and Sporting Director Belfast Giants | Glen Thornborough, SVP Sales & Marketing, Boston Bruins & TD Gardens | Peter Roby, Director Athletics and Recreation Northeastern University

**11:45am One Irishman's war
on Spinal Cord Injury**

Frank Reynolds, the CFO of PixarBio, whose Irish heritage is in Co Leitrim, talks about his unstoppable passion to cure spinal injuries and Parkinson's disease and the revolutionary breakthroughs in medicine which he is pioneering.

**11:55-12:30
Boardroom Dialogue Sessions**

Impressing the visitor with our hospitality
The Harbour View Ballroom 1. World Trade Center

Chair: David O'Shaughnessy, President and Managing Director at Seaport Companies | Adrian Doyle, General Manager, Odyssey Arena, Belfast | Jean Hortsman, CEO Interise | Larry O'Toole, President, Gentle Giant Moving Company

**An Pobal Domhanda / The Global Irish Diaspora:
How to partner and Leverage** Skyline Room. World Trade Center

Chair: AJ Gerritson, CEO 451 Marketing | Ronnie Millar, Executive Director Irish International Immigrant Center | Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, publisher Irish Echo | Ed Forry, Founder Boston Irish Reporter | Roy Adair, Chair NI Connections | Art McCabe, Director of Community Development, City of Lawrence | Bridget Hester Fantini, Officer of Leadership Giving, MIT

12:30-2:30pm Business Luncheon
The Harbour View Ballroom 2 & 3. World Trade Center

sponsored by **SQUIRE**
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Honorees: Danny Hutton, Three Dog Night | Billy Higgins | Michael Alexander, President, Lasell College
Sean Moynihan, Irish Network, Boston | Michael McCarron, Donegal Ass. | Merchant Warehouse Founders
Billy Sullivan, President of Division 8, AOH, Lawrence, MA (Recipient of Dave Burke Memorial Award)
Guest Speakers Congressman Richard Neal, Democratic Leader Friends of Ireland Caucus
Joe McHugh, T.D Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs

3:30pm Transatlantic Roundtables

1. Jobs, Tourism and Investment. The Economic Development and Tourism Teams at Boston City Council in conversation with delegates, Boston City Hall
2. A 'BelPot' for Belfast: Belfast Giants and representatives of Boston colleges. Mayor's Residence, 33 Beacon Street.
Special Guest: Ralph Cox

5:30pm Reception

 CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND | Boston

in Consulate of Ireland hosted by Consul General of Ireland Breandán Ó Caollaí. (By Invitation)

Conference Club

BOSTONIA
PUBLIC HOUSE

Bostonia Public House, 131 State Street, Boston

